

FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH



IT'S A NEW DAY AT PCSDA!

"The Lord's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning..." Lam. 3:22,23 NET

This Issue is for Everyone

Not everyone is a mother, but everyone has, or had, a mother. Our hope is that this special mother's day issue of *FRESH Start* will give you reason to reflect on all the ways your mother has been a blessing, and if you are a mother, we hope you feel especially appreciated for the blessings you have bestowed.

QUICK LINKS

[Click Here for
SERMONS](#)

[Click Here for
SABBATH SCHOOL
LESSONS](#)

[Click Here to GIVE](#)



Mothers

BY DUSTIN HALL, SENIOR PASTOR

It's a common misconception that women aren't appreciated in the Bible. Some cultural practices and historical circumstances did harbor a degrading and even abusive attitude toward women, but nothing could be further from the truth when it comes to how God views them.

Women were made in the image of God. Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created

man(kind) in his image, in the image of God He created... male and female He created them." Eve was not made because Adam was lonely, or unsatisfied. How could he be while in perfect Eden walking with God? God said it wasn't good for Adam to be alone because He had so much more to teach him.

Scripture tells us that Jesus is the "second"

"In Eden God was trying to instruct humanity about Him. He made a physical, human symbol of the Godhead: God the Father, Adam the son like Jesus, and **Eve the helper like the Holy Spirit.**"

Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45). Think about the symbolism God was creating in Eden. God the Father created Adam the son, and then He created Eve as "the helper." Where have you heard that name before? That's right! In John 14:16 it says that Jesus would send the "Helper" (other versions call the Holy Spirit the Comforter but it's the same Greek word). Isn't that incredible? In Eden God was trying so hard to instruct humanity about Him that He made a physical, human symbol of the Godhead! God the Father, Adam the son like Jesus, and Eve the helper like the Holy Spirit. The family reflected the

Godhead.

Each member of the human family was held in the highest regard. Individually they were made in the image of God. Together, in their relationship they also were in the image of God. We cannot have a complete picture of who God is in this world without women. There is a divine imprint on the female gender.

This month as we think of our mothers, not only should we be thankful for them but their heroic deeds. Their very presence is a reflection of the divine stamp, that image of God and His love that He has



placed upon them. To all of the women of our church you are loved and cherished. To all the moms, thank you for teaching us a little more about God.

*Happy
Mother's
Day*



Photo credit: Barb Goffin

MAY | 20

Agape Feast

Friday, May 20
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Come to the grand hall for a special evening of spiritual food, as well as fruit, bread, juice and fellowship.



MAY | 28

Church Potluck

The next potluck will be on May 28.
Bring your friends and food to share.

JULY | 18-22



Photo credit: Barb Goffin

Vacation Bible School

GET READY KIDS!

**Vacation Bible School will be held
on July 18-22 from 6-8:30 pm.**

Registration for participants and volunteers is already underway.

Elementary school children completing K through grade 5 this school year are invited to attend. Teens and youth who are completing grades 6-12 this school year are invited to be student assistants/volunteers. Adult volunteers for various positions.

Training will occur prior to VBS. Online Verified Volunteer training will need to be completed for those 18 and older.

For more information, email us at:
Funvbs@gmail.com



INSPIRATION

For Mothers

"The whole future life of Moses, the great mission which he fulfilled as the leader of Israel, testifies to the importance of the work of the Christian mother. There is no other work that can equal this. To a very great extent the mother holds in her own hands the destiny of her children. She is dealing with developing minds and characters, working not alone for time, but for eternity. She is sowing seed that will spring up and bear fruit, either for good or for evil. She has not to paint a form of beauty upon canvas or to chisel it from marble, but to impress upon a human soul the image of the divine. Especially during their early years the responsibility rests upon her of forming the character of her children. The impressions now made upon their developing minds will remain with them all through life.

Let every mother feel that her moments are priceless; her work will be tested in the solemn day of accounts....Then it will be found that many who have blessed the world with the light of genius and truth and holiness owe the principles that were the mainspring of their influence and success to a praying Christian mother."

Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, Ch. 22

Just Some of Our Beautiful Moms & Grandmas

Photo credits: Laura Dancek



Tributes to Our Moms

For Ada Martinez

My mom cooks really good food and takes me to an event that I want to go to.

Love, Nahara Martinez

For Lovey Moxley

My Mom is special because she lets me help in the kitchen.

Love, Peniela Moxley

For Crystal Salyer

My mom is special because she is blessed with the Holy Spirit.

Love, Rachel Salyer

For Roblero Migdelina

My mom is special because she's MY mom!

Love, Gerson Perez

For Olga Poperechnyy

My mom is special because she is always there. She is very kind, loving and fun to be around. Life is never boring with a mom like mine.

Love, Victor Poperechnyy

Tributes to Our Moms

For Crystal Salyer

My mom is special because she loves me and cares for me.

Love, Erin Salyer

For Karen Lawerance

My mom is special because she helps me with my homework. She gets me, and once in awhile brings me out and to the park.

Love, Mikaylia Scott



For Yolanda Wishart

My mother is special because she has been there for me since day one and has never turned a blind eye. She shows me that she loves me in different ways.

Love, Gianni Wishart

For Evelyn Sandford

My mom is special because she cooks, she cleans, she saves people and she takes care of me and my sisters and my friends. She loves us and we love her.

Love, Isabella Boff

Tributes to Our Moms

For Nicci Long

My mom is special because she is always kind and loving. My mother is determined and strong-willed. I can always look at her and see God! I love her so much!
Love, Johannah Long

For Evelyn Sanford

My mom is special because she always reminds me that she loves me. She reminds me how proud she is of me everyday. She respects my thoughts and feelings, even if she doesn't agree with them.

Love, Jadya Boff



For Tammara Collante

My mom is special because she is the most nicest person in the world. She is also a good cook and she has a good heart.

Love, Sarah Collante

For Delia Mercado

My mom is special because she is nice, kind, and polite and she is funny and that is why she's special.

Love, Zoe

Tributes to Our Moms

For Kelly Hall

My mom is special because she does all she possibly can for me and my entire family. My siblings and I can be quite a handful sometimes and I admire how she loves us and takes care of us anyway. I know I can talk to her about anything and she is the most remarkable woman I know.

Love, Adelle Hall

For Ulama Simpson

My mom is special because she is a loving mom and she cares for me and sometimes buys me candy. She sometimes does things that she normally never really would do just to make me happy. I love my mom.

Love, Shemoya McCalla

For Lovely Hermosa

My mother is the one and only in the world and no one can compare the love she has for me. (Also she loves my cat.) Though there are many mothers that are out there who are special...There is no one that I would compare to be as unique as her. God gave her to me and I to her as a blessing to each other in life.

Love, Precious Moxley

For Sarah St. Cloud

My mom is special because she is pretty, cool, playful, fun, and she is very good at cooking and the best.

Love, Camille St. Cloud

Tributes to Our Moms

Proverbs 31 always reminds me of my mother, Evelyn Byard, as it describes the woman who manages her household well and cares for the needs of her family. Mom always knew how to stretch a dollar and how to save some funds for a rainy day or an upcoming expenditure. Her 5 children (plus 17 short-term foster children over the years) were always clean and well dressed for church, school or public outings.

Mom has always been known by family and friends for her cooking talents. Visitors to our church always received an invitation home for dinner along with any of our friends from school. All were welcomed into her home and treated with kindness and respect. She kept things going at home on the farm besides working in the laundry or kitchen at the hospital or at the restaurant at the nearby ski resort. Later she would become food service director for Sandia View Academy in Corrales, NM, where she taught her cooking skills to her student workers and treated them like her own children.

Whatever needed to be done, Mom was ready to help out, whether it was driving the logging truck for her husband's sawmill and logging business or running after parts.

She also cared for her aging mother, moving her into Mom and Dad's home, besides maintaining her own household.

Mom has always had a listening ear for those who needed someone on which to lean during frustrating or difficult times.

Proverbs 31:25-29 sums it up well:

"She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs without fear of the future.
When she speaks, her words are wise,
and she gives instructions with kindness.
She carefully watches everything in her household
and suffers nothing from laziness.
Her children stand and bless her.

Her husband praises her:

"There are many virtuous and capable women in the world,
but you surpass them all!"



Photo credit: Barb Goffin

Don Byard, II

Tributes to Our Moms

*To one who bears the sweetest name
And adds luster to the same
Long life to her for there's no other
Who takes the place of my dear mother.*

She had a mirror with the above poem when I was growing up, and my sister still owns the rights to that mirror. Jovanie Knight née Francis was a woman of many talents and gifts, all of which she used to benefit anyone who came into her path. Her generosity knew no limit, her knowledge of the Bible and interpretation of dreams made her exceptional. When she prayed for someone, mountains moved. She was bilingual, had a mathematical mind, sang like a lark and possessed the ability to read and play music on the piano, guitar, and mouth organ. Because of her green thumb, we lived in a residence peppered with a large variety of plants that sometimes drove us crazy, however brought her calm. Many days she would escape to her green room to pray and meditate before she began the day. My sister, brothers and myself have been blessed with at least one of her talents- my sister received health and healing hands, my older brother mathematics and all books, I received her gift of writing and inspirational thoughts, and my younger brother the gift of music and

giving. We all have been blessed with the gift of singing with more discoveries as we go. All was peace when she was in it and though times came where life was hard and finances were extremely strained, a hug, an inspirational thought or just a voice of reason from her made it manageable. My prayer is to be at least half the spiritual giant she was, and that God continues to pass her legacy on through her grandchildren.

Fiol Knight



Tributes to Our Moms

My mother was such a loving believer. She loved Jesus, family and people. My mom was all of these and more.

She retired as a school teacher after my brother and I were born, and lived two weeks after turning 100 years old.

She loved to cook for the family and was a vegetarian before I was born and an excellent cook. My father loved eating and required three meals a day. My mom took excellent care of the bread winner of the family and all of us.

She played the piano for our small SDA church in North Vernon, Indiana. Dad was the elder and did all the preaching, except one or two Sabbaths a month when we had our part-time preacher. Mom also taught our Sabbath School class and rotated with other ladies as Sabbath School superintendents.

Mom taught me to play the piano till we found another piano teacher.

She liked to give Bible studies and I can remember at least two ladies that became church members and close friends.

When out of town guests showed up for church she always invited them home with us for Sabbath dinner. Her meals were always prepared on Friday so all she had to do was heat everything up for serving.



She and Dad always had a large garden and that meant spending lots of time in the kitchen canning green beans, corn and pickles.

Her name was Virginia Mann and her and my dad, Bill Mann, attended the PCSDA church when they wintered here.

Betty Dodds

Tributes to Our Moms



I have a memory of my deceased mother that I would like to share: I loved to hear her singing as she worked around the house. This in spite of the old adage: "Whistling girls and crowing hens, always come to no good ends! "

Barb Huff

My mom is my best and personal example in FAITH! I love her very much!

Lyudmila Poperechnyaya
Viktor Poperechnyy.

There are so many things we appreciate about our mom, but one thing in particular is her thoughtfulness and how she finds ways to take care of us whether near or far. She is always intentional about making sure our family stays connected and always makes time to talk when we call. Thanks for all you do, Mom!

We love you!
Chelsea and Aubri Dancek



Tributes to Our Moms

My mother, Rosina Pascual, has been a member of this congregation since relocating from Ohio in 2000 to live near my husband and I, and her grandchildren. She will turn 90 years old later this year, and attending church in person is much more of a challenge than it was years ago. Yet, she is the reason that my sisters, daughters and I are all “in the church.” When I was a few years old, she attended evangelistic meetings in a small town and was convicted to become a Seventh-day Adventist, despite opposition from her family. By the time I was in fifth grade, she and my father believed it was best to begin sending us to Seventh-day Adventist schools, which we did through college. That commitment required enormous sacrifice, in many different ways, but mom always stood firm in her faith and believed it was a small price to pay if it benefitted her three daughters’ eternal lives. There are never enough words to pay tribute to her for such an immeasurable gift. I’m deeply grateful for the opportunities she gave me, and for the role model she provided me with as a mother. She’s been a tough act to follow!

Happy Mother’s Day, Mom.
I love you.

The Editor 😊





NOT A MOM?

YOU ARE LOVED AND APPRECIATED!

BY LAURA DANCEK

It seems like celebrating mothers excludes females who are not moms, which would be ironic for me.

My husband and I were married for fourteen years before we began our family, and much of that time it was our choice. However, every week at church I was approached by well-meaning ladies telling me I should have a baby. One even told me that she thinks women who do not have children are very selfish!

Reasons for not having children are highly personal. Your worth is not based on being a mother or not. You add value to the lives around you. Many of you choose to invest in other people's children. You bless and enrich others, and you should feel affirmed. You are all loved and appreciated!

NEW MEMBERS



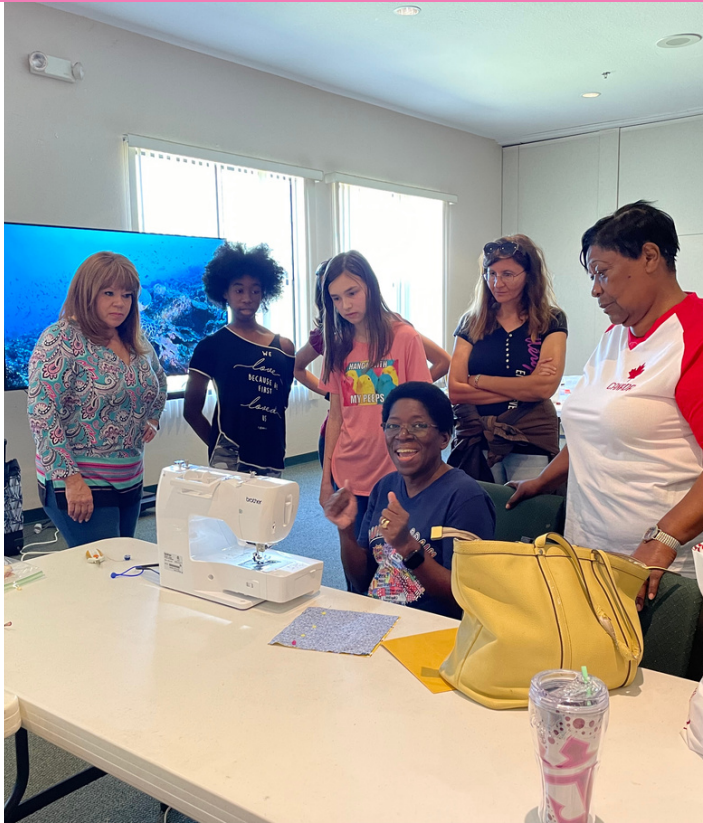
On March 19, Pastor Dustin had the joy of baptizing his youngest son, Canaan, in Corning, New York.

On April 9, the Poperechnyy family celebrated the baptism of their sons John and Victor. It isn't hard to imagine that all of heaven was smiling almost as much as what you see pictured below.

We are lucky to have these three young men join our church family officially!

Photo credits below: Laura Dancek





LIFE GROUPS:

JOIN IN THE FUN!

BY LAURA DANCEK

The Fellow Stitch group has been growing, and every Monday at 1:00 you can hear talking, laughter, and the purr of sewing machines.

We've had several young people join the group, and everyone is having a great time learning how to crochet, sew, or other type of crafting. It's not too late for you to join.

"As a rough rule of thumb, if you belong to no groups but you decide to join one, you cut your risk of dying over the next year in half."

Robert Putnam

Come and enjoy the new exercise class on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 in the Grand Hall.

It's time to get off your seat and on your feet!

If you'd like to start your own life group, contact the church office 941-629-1333.

REMEMBERING

OUR TIME OF SERVICE IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE



Barbara and Lee Huff in traditional Russian garb

Pastor Lee Huff served in Russia as President of the Euro-Asia Division of the Seventh-day Adventist church, and Barbara was an administrative assistant there, prior to moving to Punta Gorda. With the current war in Ukraine on our minds, we asked Barbara to share a little about their experience there, and thank her for taking the time to write for us.

BY BARBARA HUFF

It's hard to know where to start a story. It could be at the beginning, or the end, or somewhere in between. I don't really know where our story began, so I'll start in the middle.

Lee and I had been travelling several days with friends to Bulgaria, Prague and Moscow. Our final destination was Kiev, Ukraine where we were scheduled to hold evangelistic meetings in October 1991. We traveled by train for about twelve hours so had plenty of time to wonder if we were absolutely crazy. We couldn't speak a word of Russian, we had no way to contact anyone, and we didn't know who to contact anyway! It was after dark when we pulled into Kiev. The train had barely come to a stop when a young lady jumped aboard our "sleep wagon" and asked, "Lee Huff?" Anya's English was perfect. We knew we were going to be OK. While still in the railyards, she pointed out Lee's picture on posters advertising the meetings. The meetings were held in a prominent building in town; six hundred people were baptized in a large swimming pool at the close of the series. It is heart-breaking that Russia is attacking



The Huff grandchildren, Oliver and Leah, occupy themselves in Grandpa's office. Submitted by Barbara Huff

the beautiful 1500-year-old city of Kiev.

We returned four times to hold evangelistic meetings and start new churches in four other cities of Ukraine. Incidentally, these cities are all shown on TV maps as cities under siege from Russia. The years that we held these meetings, Lee was president of the Minnesota Conference, and I was the communications director.

In 1995, General Conference President Bob Folkenberg asked us if we would be willing to move to Moscow for Lee to be president of the Euro-Asia Division of the church. He thought Lee was a good choice because he was known there and we knew the people. I would be an administrative assistant. Our stipulation was that it would only be for five years as Lee planned to retire at 65. By then a national would be groomed and ready to take over the position.

We moved to Moscow in May 1996. That means that today, in 2022, we find ourselves loving people we know in the two countries which are fighting with each other! We don't know if our churches still stand or if our people are safe.

The city of Mariupol, which has suffered such violent destruction, holds fond memories for us. Besides the church members, there is a steel mill and crystal factory. We toured both and brought home several pieces of beautiful crystal. At the time, it seemed as though the crystal factory was the only place in Russia where we had seen adequate lighting. But the women who were engraving the crystal wore no protection over their eyes!

I'm remembering something else. I remember Jesus' words in Matthew 24 that in the last days, among other things, there would be wars and famines. It looks like we are there!



April 2

Ice Cream Social and Game Night

Photo credits: Wave Williams and Laura Dancek







April 16

The Sabbath of Easter weekend we were blessed by a spiritually uplifting church service. Several powerful musical selections were followed by a message from Pastor Dustin. Our hearts were full!

A musical outreach celebration also took place at Gilchrist Park. The PCAS marimba band, and a praise team led by Pine Price caught the attention of people biking or walking by. Free snacks were available. What a great way to introduce our church to people!

Photo credits: Barb Goffin

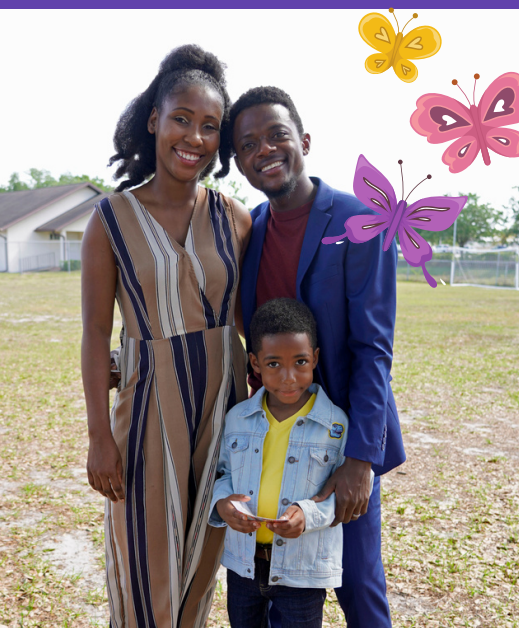




April 23 Kids' Jesus and Me

Photo credits: Barb Goffin







Thank you to all who helped on April 24 Spring Cleaning Day!

We were able to haul away tons of trash due to the hard work of 35-40 people.

Photo credits: Wave Williams







Progress at the Family Resource Center

We're excited about being able to start the physical changes on the building that will become the Family Resource Center!

Keep your eyes out for all the progress in upcoming newsletters.

Thanks to all who are helping with the demolition.

Photo credits: Barb Goffin



BEFORE AND AFTER

Documenting the Transformation of the Family Resource Center

Photo credits: Wave Williams and Laura Dancek

"Before" photos were taken last fall. "After" photos taken in April.

BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER



April 23

PCAS music groups participated in the church service.

Photo credits: Barb Goffin



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Cleveland Forde celebrated his 91st birthday on March 26. Let's wish him good health and blessings on this next year.



Photo credit: Resty Antonio



941-629-1333
2036 Loveland Blvd.
Pt. Charlotte, FL 33952
www.pcsda.net

Follow us on
Facebook



Watch our
YouTube Channel



FRESH Start Staff

Editor:
Laura Dancek

Photographers:
Resty Antonio
Laura Dancek
Barb Goffin
Wave Williams

Contact us by
[clicking on our email address here:](mailto:pcsdacommunication@gmail.com)
pcsdacommunication@gmail.com

SERMON SCHEDULE

May 7
Pastor Dustin

May 14
Pastor Jaime

May 21
Pastor Dustin

May 28
Pastor Dustin